

W.A. NATURALISTS' CLUB - ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Club was held at the W.A. Museum, Perth, on December 5, 1947, with the retiring president, Mr. V. N. Serventy in the chair. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Mr. B. Shipway; vice-presidents, Messrs. C. B. Palmer and V. N. Serventy; hon. secretary, Mr. A. Main; hon. assistant secretary, Miss C. Kniep; hon. treasurer, Miss L. Serventy; librarian, Miss S. Wansbrough; editor, Dr. D. L. Serventy; council, Miss S. Elliott and Miss M. L. Teede, Dr. J. Gentili, Messrs. W. Bennetts and W. Browne.

The report of the retiring secretary (Miss Teede) showed that the year had proved a successful one for the Club and the number of financial members had risen as follows during the past three years: 1945, 33; 1946, 66; 1947, 192. The Wildlife Show at the Perth Town Hall was made a three days' exhibition in September and attracted a record public attendance of about 10,000 persons. It was opened by Mr. T. C. Edmondson (Chief Inspector of Schools) with supporting remarks by Mr. P. Crosbie Morrison (editor of "Wild Life"). As last year the proceeds were shared with the Gould League of Birdlovers. Financially the show had enabled the publication of the Club's new magazine and the keeping of subscriptions within reasonable limits.

The meeting room was always filled at the general meetings and among the lectures given during the year were "Some aspects of Magpie behaviour" by Mr. Angus Robinson (March), "The Koala and Lyre-bird in their sanctuaries" by Mr. F. Lewis (May), "Coral and the changing sea-level" by Dr. R. W. Fairbridge (June), "Storm birds" by Mr. L. Glauert (July), "The pine plantation at Gngangara" by Mr. H. B. Perry (August) and "Respiration of insects" by Mr. E. P. Hodgkin (November). The remaining meetings were devoted to members' evenings and film exhibitions. The excursions proved so popular that it is hoped to arrange for two buses as soon as the petrol position eases. Up to the present the organisation of the excursions has not allowed of the full benefit hoped for and the council has plans for improvement. The localities visited included Thompson's Lake, Canning Dam, Bickley, Leighton beach, Jarrahdale, the Cascade waterfalls at Gosnells, South Belmont and Pt. Peron.

Action was taken during the year to prevent the destruction of five acres of natural bush in King's Park for the purpose of making a rose garden. Although our protests were not successful in having the decision reversed other considerations forced the abandonment of the proposal. While this is a cause for gratification it must be remembered that the present board still agrees in principle with the idea of converting natural bush areas into ornamental gardens. Naturalists must remain vigilant in the defence of all natural reserves and to fight for their extension.

In conclusion it appears that the Club is on the eve of even more expansion. It is hoped that all members will co-operate as enthusiastically in the future as they have done in the past.